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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Thailand/Indochina

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 30 JUNE 1949

SUBJECT Projected Airstrips and Conditions in Northeastern Thailand

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X DATE OF [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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*Except as noted

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [REDACTED]

2. The wartime Free Thai airstrip at Pukio, actually a field, is still in good condition for accommodating light planes [REDACTED]. The government is reportedly interested in surfacing this runway [REDACTED].

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3. At Nong Khai-Vientiane, on the Thailand-Indochina border, political relations between the Thai and French are calm. This condition is due mainly to the ability of the Thai High Commissioner, Tan Suwanasorn. Tan's pleasant manner and ability to speak fluent French have ensured friendly relations with the French, while in his own province, he aids the Vietnamese and Laos in making a living.

4. All food is flown into Vientiane as all roads are cut off by guerrillas. Local farmers near the center of this area have vacated their farms.

5. The eight million population of the northeastern area is nearly half the population of Thailand. One good road and two rail lines cover this area. Few Bangkok people realize the size and value of this territory. It is badly neglected [REDACTED] with regard to schools, hospitals and transport facilities. There are four hospitals in this entire area, with one doctor attached to each hospital. The area could easily be blocked off by military maneuvers and Thailand thus would lose a large part of its territory. Since the death of the four ministers* from this area on 4 March 1949, the northeastern section of Thailand is potentially a serious trouble spot.

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CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 01/21/21

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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DPA ACLO 4 Apr 77

Date: 24 Apr 78 By: [REDACTED]

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